FLAV. *I* have been bold,
(For that I knew it the most general way[8],) To them to use your signet, and your name ; But they do shake their heads, and I am here No richer in return.
TIM. Is't true ? can it be ?
FLAV. They answer, in a joint and corpoiate voice,
That now they are at fall[9], want treasure, cannot
Do what they would; are sorry—you are honourable,— But yet they could have wish'd—they know not—
but[1]
Something hath been amiss—a noble nature May catch a wrench—would all were well—'tis pity—
And so, intending [2] other serious matters, After distasteful looks, and these hard fractions[3],

8 — I knew it the most GENERAL way,] *General* is not *speedy,* but *compendious,* the way to try many at a time. JOHNSON.

9 —at fall,] i. e. at an ebb. STEEVENS.

[1] — but —] Was supplied by Sir Thomas Hanmer, to complete the verse. STEEVENS.

[a] — intending —] Is *regarding, turning their notice* to othei things, JOHNSON.
To *intend* and to *attend* had anciently the same meaning. So, in The Spanish Curate of Beaumont and Fletcher: " Good sir, *intend* this business.'*
See vol. v. p. 314, n. 4. STEEVENS.
See also, vol. ix. p. 264, n. 4, BOSWELL.
So, in Wits, Fits, and Fancies, &c. 1595:
** Tell this man that I am going to dinner to my lord maior, and that I cannot now *intend* his tittle-tattle.[1]*
Again, in PasquiVs Night-Cap, a poem, 1623: " For we have many secret ways to spend, " Which are not fit our husbands should *intend.*"
M ALONE.

[3], —and these HARD FRACTIONS,] Flavius, by *fractions,* means *broken* hints, *interrupted* sentences, *abrupt* remarks.
JOHNSON.